

Physical Science 101 Fall 2009

Section **01**: Tuesday & Thursday
9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Section **02**: Monday & Wednesday
2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Garrett 220

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Welcome to Physical Science 101. Physical Science 101 is the first semester of an introductory course. Topics covered in this course include the scientific method, motion in one dimension, force and motion, Newton's Laws, energy, momentum, heat, fluids, electricity and magnetism, and waves.

The goals of this course include:

- a functional understanding of the major principles of physics as demonstrated by an ability to make qualitative predictions of the outcomes of simple experiments.
- an ability to utilize a variety of different representations (free-body diagrams, motion diagrams, etc.) to solve simple problems.
- an ability to apply scientific reasoning skills in familiar as well as unfamiliar contexts.
- a familiarity with the operational (procedural) definitions of the major terms in physics and the ability to utilize these definitions to communicate effectively about the subject matter.

Textbook: Conceptual Physical Science, 4th edition by Hewitt, Suchocki, & Hewitt.

Grading:

Tests (3)	25% each	} 75%
Daily Work / Homework	25%	
Final		25%
TOTAL		100%

As the table above shows, 75% of your grade is based on four scores (three tests and the Daily Work / Homework grade). The lowest of these four scores will be dropped. If you perform well on every exam but do not turn in your homework or complete the daily work (NOT RECOMMENDED), then 75% of your grade will be based on your test scores only. On the other hand, if you turn in your homework and complete your daily work but you "bomb" one of the tests then that test score will be dropped. As a result, 75% of your grade will be based on 2 tests and the Daily Work / Homework grade. Note that the Final test will NOT be dropped.

You will not receive credit for activities that occur during class time unless you are present, even if the university excuses the absence. Excused absences can be made-up if you make arrangements with me soon after your return to class. Otherwise, no make-up is possible. It is important that you attend class every period. Role is taken at the beginning of each class period, so it is important that you arrive on-time. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to remind the instructor to mark you present. At the discretion of the instructor, the accumulation of several (i.e. 4) "lates" may result in a penalty of up to 10% on the next or current exam.

It is extremely important that you turn in all homework assignments and complete all daily work even if you are unable to complete the entire assignment. Zero (0) credit will be assigned if you fail to turn in an assignment or miss a daily work exercise due to an

absence. A zero (0) grade will lower your overall Daily Work / Homework grade significantly.

University Attendance Policy

The right hand column of page 9 in the 2008–2009 Student Policy Manual and Organizational Handbook states the following:

2. Any student who is not present for at least 75% of the scheduled class sessions in any course may receive a grade of 'W' if this condition occurs prior to the last day to drop a course or a grade of 'F' after that date.
3. Any University–related activity requiring an absence from class will count as an absence when determining if a student has attended 75% of class meetings.

Therefore, for the Tuesday / Thursday class (section **01**), you may miss a total of seven (7) class meetings and still meet the absence requirements. The eighth (8th) absence will require that you drop (i.e. 'W') or receive an 'F' for the course.

Therefore, for the Monday / Wednesday class (section **02**), you may miss a total of six (6) class meetings and still meet the absence requirements. The seventh (7th) absence will require that you drop (i.e. 'W') or receive an 'F' for the course.

Moodle

Materials such as daily assignments, homework and exam scores, simulations, and other miscellaneous announcements for this course will be posted on Moodle. More importantly, worksheets and activities worked on and discussed in class will be posted as well. You may be required to print out SOME or ALL of these materials before attending class. I will have the materials posted as PDF documents on your Moodle site at least one (1) full day before class.

Mid–term Grades

Mid–term grades will be posted on Arrow from Monday, October 5th through Friday, October 16th.

Make–up Tests

If a student misses an exam due to an excused absence, the student must present a copy of the documentation as soon as possible, preferably by the next class meeting. If you miss an exam, you must call the day of the missed exam. If a message is left, then a phone number where you may be reached must be made available to the instructor. If a student misses a test due to an unexcused absence, the student will receive a zero (0) on the test. All make–up work will be taken preferably before the next class or at a prearranged time set by the instructor. Anyone who misses an exam due to a university excused absence will need to take the exam at a prearranged time with the instructor before they return back to class or otherwise take the make–up at the end of the semester.

Emergency Procedure

Please check the evacuation chart in the classroom for the shortest path out of the building in the event of an emergency. Also, please inform me if you will need extra assistance in the event that we have to evacuate the building. Please do not use the elevator when evacuating.

Academic Integrity

Faculty and students must observe the ULM published policy on Academic Dishonesty (see Page 4 in *ULM Student Policy Manual* -- <http://www.ulm.edu/studentpolicy/>).

Course Evaluation Policy

Students are expected to complete the on-line course evaluation. This link will be available on your Moodle account towards the end of the semester.

Student Services

Information about ULM student services, such as Student Success Center (<http://www.ulm.edu/cass/>), Counseling Center (<http://www.ulm.edu/counselingcenter/>), Special Needs (<http://www.ulm.edu/counselingcenter/special.htm>), and Student Health Services, is available at the following Student Services web site <http://www.ulm.edu/studentaffairs/>.

Modes of Instruction

Collaborating effectively with your classmates is an emphasis of this course. Most class periods will involve mini-lectures interspersed with short in-class activities. These activities are designed to help you recognize your own preconceptions and practice using scientific reasoning in an environment where you can correct errors immediately. You will be expected to share your ideas within a small group of your classmates and to listen to the ideas of others.

Help Outside of Class

I will be available during my office hours listed below about 95% of the time. I am available at other times as well. Please feel free to stop by at any time. Also, I encourage you to seek out classmates when you need help and to make yourself available for any questions they may have. In particular, please seek out your classmates before asking for my help during office hours in the event that you missed class.

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

By appointment on any day.

When I am not in a class, I am generally on the first floor of Hanna Hall. Drop in visits are welcome. If possible, however, make an appointment to see me so that I am certain to be available.

Note

No tobacco, drinks, or food are permitted in the classroom. Grades will not be given out over the telephone or in an e-mail message. Students are asked to turn off any personal electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers, mp3 players, video games, etc. At the discretion of the instructor, each instance of class disruption related to these types of devices may result in a penalty of up to 10% on the next or current exam. Also, the Instructor reserves the right to change a student's seat assignment. Graduating seniors are not exempt from anything. Each student is responsible for all material and assignments covered in class whether or not the student is in class.

Drop Date

The final day to withdraw from this class (**with a “W”**) is Monday, November 2, 2009.

Grading Scale

- $90 \leq \mathbf{A} \leq 100$
- $80 \leq \mathbf{B} < 90$
- $70 \leq \mathbf{C} < 80$
- $60 \leq \mathbf{D} < 70$
- $\mathbf{F} < 60$